REMARKS

Claims 43, 47, 48, 50, 54, 55, 57, 61, 62, 64-81 and 95-97 are pending in the present application. No amendments are proposed by this paper. It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated June 13, 2005.

Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication in item 5 of the Action that claims 47, 48, 54, 55, 61, 62, 64-81 and 95-97 have been allowed.

Information Disclosure Statement (IDS):

It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner has still failed to properly consider the IDS filed on September 3, 2004 by the Applicants. As such, it is requested that the Examiner properly consider this IDS and provide Applicants with an initialed copy of the accompanied PTO Form-1449 filed with this IDS.

As to the Merits:

As to the merits of this case, the Examiner relies on the newly cited reference of Suzuki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,118,552) in setting forth the following rejection:

Claims 43, 50 and 57 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hsu (U.S. Patent No. 6,151,424, of record) in view of Avinash (U.S. Patent No. 5,832,134, of record) and Suzuki et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 43 calls for *region segmentation means for dividing said object image into a plurality of regions; and extraction means for identifying and extracting the object portion in said object image by a process of consolidating information of each pixel in said object image for each said region, wherein said process of consolidating information of each pixel in said object image for each said region in said extraction means is the process of averaging information of each pixel in said object image for each said region.* Independent claims 50 and 57 are drawn to similar embodiments.

With regard to independent claim 43, the Examiner properly acknowledges that both Hsu and Avinash fail to disclose the feature of claim 43 concerning *wherein said process of consolidating information of each pixel in said object image for each said region in said extraction means is the process of averaging information of each pixel in said object image for each said region.* Please see, the bridging sentence between pages 2 and 3 of the Action.

In order to compensate for the above-noted drawbacks and deficiencies of Hsu and Avinash, the Examiner relies on the teachings of the newly cited secondary reference of Suzuki. More specifically, the Examiner asserts that Suzuki "teaches the concept of averaging information of each pixel in an object image each for a region [as the process of consolidating information for pixels of an image region]. See col. 6, lines 37-46."[1]

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[1] Please see, lines 3-5, page 3 of the Action.

However, while Suzuki may disclose "32 is an average data value calculation component for calculating the average data value of pixel block of each color component,"[2] Suzuki also discloses that "33 is a region determination component for determining to which region the block corresponds, color, monochrome or background, based on the average data value of the pixel block of each color component."[3]

In other words, in Suzuki, the average data value of pixel block of each color component is calculated as part of the region determination process. However, this is complete contrast to the present invention wherein the process of consolidating information by averaging information of each pixel in the object image for each region is calculated by the extraction means, and not the region segmentation means. That is, Suzuki fails to disclose or fairly suggest that the average data value of pixel block of each color component is calculated to extract object portions.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the applied references of Hsu, Avinash and Suzuki, singly or in combination, fail to disclose or fairly suggest the features of the present claimed invention concerning *wherein said process of consolidating information of each pixel in said object image for each said region in said extraction means is the process of averaging information of each pixel in said object image for each said region.*

In view of the aforementioned remarks, Applicants submit that that the claims are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

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[2] Please see, lines 40-42, col. 6 of Suzuki.
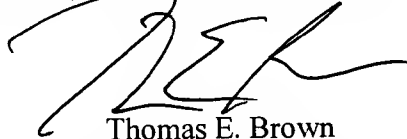[3] Please see, lines 42-46, col. 6 of Suzuki.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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